

THE *first night* OF OUR
SECOND
CENTURY

THE 100TH BIRTHDAY GALA
OCTOBER 26, 2019 • UNION DEPOT, SAINT PAUL

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'
OF MINNESOTA

schedule

5:30 PM **Registration**
Reception with cash bar and hors d'oeuvres
Exhibit: "A Century of Civic Engagement: The League of Women Voters Minnesota"

7:00 PM **Dinner**
Welcome // Laura Helmer, President
Program & Honorees // Jodi Ritacca Carlini, Emcee
Live Auction // Sarah Jean Knox, Auctioneer
The Apollo Male Chorus // Aaron Humble, Artistic Director
 "Hail! Minnesota" by Truman Rickard
 "Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor" by Irving Berlin
 "America the Beautiful" by Samuel A. Ward, arranged by Aaron Humble

MEET OUR EMCEE

Jodi Ritacca Carlini is an Emmy Award-winning journalist who has worked in the Twin Cities media for more than 25 years, and was one of the country's first female television news directors in the 1970s at KNOP-TV. As a reporter, anchor and producer, she's been at the front lines of covering local news, as well as interviewing five U.S. Presidents and fascinating newsmakers like Buzz Aldrin, the astronaut who walked on the moon.



At KSTP-TV, 5 Eyewitness News, Jodi covered daily health and medical news stories for more than a decade. She served as Public Information Officer (PIO) at HealthEast for crisis communications, including when the 35W bridge collapsed. For fourteen years, she's hosted and produced "Inside Health Care" on SCC-TV. Her work has earned her four regional Emmy Awards, seventeen Emmy Nominations, and a Law Day Award from Nebraska's 13th Judicial District.

Currently, she's serving on the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, and as President of the Upper Midwest Emmys. As a member of LWV Woodbury Cottage Grove Area, she also volunteers on candidate forums, legislative interviews and voter registration.

our second century

Welcome to the First Night of our Second Century! Exactly 100 years ago, on October 28-29, 1919, our founding members took the first step to incorporate and mobilize the League of Women Voters Minnesota. A copy of the original program is on your table, as a reminder of our ambitious beginning, and as tribute to the women who blazed the trail that led us to tonight. Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt was in attendance, and spoke to address the following questions:

"What is the League of Women Voters and Why?"

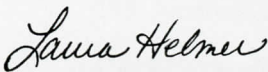
"Where Are We Now?"

"Our Nation – What Can We Do for It?"

Those questions have been answered repeatedly during the last 100 years, through the persistent work of the national, state and local Leagues as we empower voters and defend democracy. Those questions remain relevant on this eve of our Second Century, and we're delighted to address them throughout our Centennial series and beyond.

Tonight, you'll be introduced to 12 diverse women who will share their stories about breaking through barriers to become the "first woman" in their arena of influence. Their inclusion within our democracy answers the question, "Why League?" As our founding president Clara Ueland emphasized, "The hardest lesson... is that it is not safe to leave government in the hands of one man or a group of men, and that one class cannot judge wisely or decide fairly for the whole."

Our First Century began this hard work of opening up an inclusive democracy where all women's voices could come into the arena to be heard – diverse voices of thought, culture, gender, age. Please join with us in our Second Century, as we continue to build bridges that ensure all people have a seat at the table, to achieve fairness for the whole.



LAURA HELMER

President
LWV Minnesota



MICHELLE WITTE

Executive Director
LWV Minnesota

our first century

In July of 1848 the first U.S. women's rights convention opened in Seneca Falls, New York. Participants included Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Frederick Douglass, and others committed to equality for the sexes. Their demand for voting rights, or suffrage, began a 72-year campaign for the ballot.

Women in the suffrage movement wrote letters, gave speeches, signed petitions, marched in parades, and protested at the White House. They organized the National American Woman Suffrage Association, the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage, the National Woman's Party, and dozens of other organizations to lead the fight.

In 1858, Minnesota became a state and a handful of Minnesota women began calling for voting rights. In 1869, Sarah Burger Stearns and Mary J. Colburn formed the first of what would become dozens of local suffrage clubs. Upper- and middle-class white women tended to dominate these groups. But, Nellie Griswold Francis's Everywoman Suffrage Club and the Scandinavian Woman Suffrage Association brought some diversity to the movement. Founded in 1881, the Minnesota Woman Suffrage Association provided statewide coordination and leadership to the local clubs, as well as state and national lobbying efforts.

In October 1919, the Minnesota Woman Suffrage Association dissolved and became the Minnesota League of Women Voters. This new organization would be "a branch of the national League of Women Voters for the purpose of completing full enfranchisement of women and increasing effectiveness of women's votes in furthering better government."

With the dawn of the 20th century, Minnesota women increased the pressure on state government and in the court of public opinion. The day after the 19th Amendment became law in 1920, 87 South St. Paul women voted on a water bill. They were the first fully enfranchised women in the US to cast votes.

Clara Ueland's call for the purpose of the League in 1919 was "raising our standards of living and the safeguarding of our cherished institutions. Together the women of the state must make wise and far seeing plans to the end that our dreams of a democracy, in which men and women shall have an equal voice, must come true."

- 1860 Jane Grey Swisshelm was first woman to address MN House of Representatives
- 1869 Colburn and Stearns formed first suffrage societies in Champlin and Rochester
- 1875 Women 21+ able to vote and hold office in school elections
- 1877 MN Legislature approved a state constitutional amendment to allow women to vote on "whiskey question," but male voters defeated it at polls
- 1881 Minnesota Woman Suffrage Association formed in Hastings
- 1893 Woman Suffrage bill almost passed in Minnesota
- 1898 Women 21+ able to vote and hold office in library elections
- 1901 33rd Convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association is convened in Minneapolis
- 1907 Resolution for a state suffrage amendment failed in the MN Senate
- 1913 Suffrage amendment bill passed the MN House, but lost again in the MN Senate
- 1914 Clara Ueland organized a parade of over 2,000 woman suffrage supporters
- 1915 Senate bill for state suffrage amendment failed in the MN Senate by one vote
- 1918 19th Amendment (known as the Susan B. Anthony Amendment) failed in the US Senate by two votes
- 1919 June 4 – US Congress passed 19th Amendment to US Constitution allowing women to vote; sent to states for ratification

September 8 – MN Legislature voted to ratify the 19th Amendment

October 29 – MN Woman Suffrage Association became the MN League of Women Voters
- 1920 August 26-27 – 19th Amendment became the law of the land; first women to vote in US were from South St. Paul

honorees

IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

JENNIFER CARNAHAN

Chair, Republican Party of Minnesota
1st Asian American to serve as Party chair



A native of Maple Grove, Jennifer graduated from Osseo Senior High School in 1995. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree from Syracuse University and her MBA from the Carlson School of Management.

Jennifer's career started in sports marketing, working for the Florida Marlins, Minnesota Timberwolves and Los Angeles Angels, before transitioning to marketing and strategy for General Mills, McDonald's Corporation and Ecolab. In 2014, Jennifer opened her own small business – Primrose Park – a women's clothing boutique, now located in the Brainerd Lakes Area.

Jennifer helped found the National Association of Asian MBA's Twin Cities Chapter and the Asian Employee Network at Ecolab.

In 2017, as a political newcomer, Jennifer was elected as the first female and the first minority to run either major political party in Minnesota. She was re-elected to serve a second term in April, 2019.

TONI CARTER

Ramsey County Commissioner
1st African American to serve on a county board in Minnesota



Elected by the voters of District 4 on March 15, 2005, Toni is committed to efficient and effective county services, eliminating disparities in outcomes for diverse populations, and raising grassroots awareness of county decision-making processes and systems.

The first African American ever elected as a county commissioner in the state of Minnesota, Toni has also served as President of the Association of Minnesota Counties, Co-chair of the MN Human Services

Performance Council and the Governor's Task Force on the Protection of Children, and Chair of the National Association of Counties (NACo) Human Services and Education Committee. She also co-chairs Ramsey County's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Stakeholders' Committee, and serves on the leadership teams of the Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board, the Saint Paul Children's Collaborative, and the Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood.

Before becoming a commissioner, Toni worked as a school teacher, marketing/communications and arts consultant, systems engineer, performing artist, and as a founding director of the non-profit ARTS-US. She has received numerous awards for her work in the community, the arts and education, including an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from Concordia University, Saint Paul. She is married to retired police professional Melvin Carter, Jr., and has 3 children and 8 grandchildren.

MARGARET H. CHUTICH

Associate Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court
1st openly gay state supreme court justice

Margaret is an Associate Justice on the Minnesota Supreme Court, having been appointed by Governor Dayton in March 2016. She was elected to a six-year term in November 2018. Margaret previously served on the Minnesota Court of Appeals from 2012 to 2016. Before that, she served for three years as Assistant Dean at the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs.



Margaret practiced law for twenty-five years, serving over fourteen years in various capacities at the Minnesota Attorney General's Office, including as Deputy Attorney General overseeing the Law Enforcement Section. In addition, she prosecuted criminal cases as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota, and practiced law privately for five years at the law firms of Tanick & Heins and Opperman Heins & Paquin. She began her career clerking for the Honorable Diana E. Murphy in federal court in the District of Minnesota.

Margaret graduated from the University of Minnesota, studied Croatian at the University of Zagreb, and received her law degree, *cum laude*, from the University of Michigan. She serves on the Board of Governors for the University of St. Thomas School of Law, the board of VocalEssence, and an advisory council for the Minnesota Women Lawyers.

EDWINA GARCIA

Richfield City Council Member

1st Latina elected to the Minnesota Legislature



Edwina was the first Latina woman to be elected to the Minnesota Legislature. For the past 40 years, she has utilized her time and talents to advocate for residents of Richfield at both the municipal and state levels of government. Because of her contributions, Governor Mark Dayton and Richfield Mayor Pat Elliot issued proclamations denoting November 26, 2018, as Edwina Garcia Day in Richfield.

Edwina began her journey in both city and community service when she moved to Richfield in 1972. She served on the city's Charter, Human Rights and Community Services commissions, as well as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority. Elected for the first time to the city council in 1984, she represented Ward 3 and served through 1990.

In 1990, Edwina was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives where she served four consecutive terms until 1998. In 2012, she won the election to represent Ward 2 on the Richfield City Council and returned to her work in the municipal government. She was re-elected in 2016 for a second term.

Edwina has been honored with numerous awards throughout her career, including Richfield's Key to the City.

MARIA REGAN GONZALEZ

Mayor of Richfield

1st Latina Mayor in Minnesota



Maria is part of a movement to change the face of leadership as the first Latina Mayor in Minnesota and in the Midwest. As Mayor, she is leading efforts to promote a more inclusive government amidst widening disparities and racial inequities, prioritizing affordable housing, civic engagement, health equity, and inclusive decision-making.

Recognized as a 2018 Changemaker by the Minnesota Women's Press and a 2019 Bush Foundation Fellow, Maria is recognized for her ability to unify diverse groups of people to advance racial and social justice;

build healthy and engaged communities with her collective leadership style; inspire hope; and make what seems impossible, possible for entire communities.

Maria is a proud co-founder of La Red Latina de Educacion Temprana, a network of over 300 Spanish speaking childcare providers working to change Minnesota's early childhood system and grow healthy and school ready children. She is currently finishing her Masters of Public Health from the University of Minnesota.

KAOHLY HER

Minnesota State Representative

1st Hmong American woman elected to the Minnesota House, along with Rep. Vang



Kaohly is a Minnesota State Representative for district 64A of Saint Paul. She was elected in 2018 and is vice chair of the Rules and Legislative Administration Committee, and also serves on the committees for Education Policy, Housing Finance and Policy, Judiciary Finance and Civil Law, and Property and Local Tax. When Kaohly is not in session, she serves as the Policy Director for Mayor Melvin Carter in the City of Saint Paul.

Kaohly has had a long history of working with the community, most recently in the appointed positions of Commissioner of the Saint Paul Police Civilian Internal Affairs Review Commission and the Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity Commission. Currently, she sits on the Advisory Board of Mu Performing Arts and helps run the Building More Philanthropy with Purpose (BMPP) Giving Circle, an organization she helped co-found.

Kaohly obtained her BBA in Finance from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, her MBA from Northeastern University, and is pursuing her Doctorate in Education Leadership at the University of St. Thomas.

ANDREA JENKINS

Minneapolis City Council Member

1st African American openly trans woman elected to office in the US



Andrea is a writer, performance artist, poet, and transgender activist. She is the first African American openly trans woman to be elected to office in the US.

Andrea moved to Minnesota to attend the University of Minnesota in 1979 and was hired by the Hennepin County government, where she worked for a decade. She worked as a staff member on the Minneapolis City Council for 12 years before beginning work as curator of the Transgender Oral History Project at the University of Minnesota's Jean-Nickolaus Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Studies.

Andrea holds a Master's Degree in Community Development from Southern New Hampshire University, a MFA in Creative Writing from Hamline University and a Bachelors Degree in Human Services from Metropolitan State University. She is a nationally and internationally recognized writer and artist, a 2011 Bush Fellow to advance the work of transgender inclusion, and the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships.

EMILY LARSON

Mayor of Duluth

1st woman mayor of Duluth



Emily was elected Mayor of Duluth in November 2015 with 72% of the vote. She was inaugurated on January 4th, 2016. Prior to becoming Mayor, Emily was President of the Duluth City Council, served as a commissioner on the Duluth Economic Development Authority and was the Council Conduit to Parks and Libraries.

Currently, Emily serves as a member of the Young Women's Initiative of Minnesota, and sits on boards of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund. As Mayor, her priorities include sustainable energy, increasing and improving our

housing stock, addressing the opioid epidemic, developing a stable and reliable long-term streets funding plan, and continuing to grow Duluth's robust and unique economy.

Emily earned an undergraduate degree from the College of St. Scholastica, a Master's Degree from the University of Minnesota Duluth, and is a graduate of Intermedia Arts Creative Community Leadership Institute. She is an active trail runner and full-time admirer of Lake Superior. Emily is married to Doug Zaun and they have two sons.

ANNE K. MCKEIG

Associate Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court
1st Native American state supreme court justice

In September 2016, Anne joined the Minnesota Supreme Court, making her the first female American Indian appointed to any of the state's highest courts in the U.S.



Anne previously served as an assistant Hennepin County Attorney and district court judge. She has taught as an adjunct professor at both St. Thomas School of Law and Mitchell Hamline School of Law, and has spoken at numerous conferences regarding child protection, domestic violence, and tribal community issues. She is a member of the Speakers Bureau for Gundersen Health National Child Protection Training Center, Minnesota Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome ("PROOF"), Division of Indian Work, Infinity Project, a trustee for St. Catherine University, and member of the State/Tribal Court forum.

Anne is a descendent of the White Earth Nation. A native of Federal Dam in Northern Minnesota, she grew up on the Leech Lake reservation. She is married and a proud mother of five children.

KIM NORTON

Mayor of Rochester

1st woman mayor of Rochester

Kim became the first woman Mayor of Rochester in 2018. Most recently, she won a Bush Fellowship, which allowed her to complete a Master's Degree at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs, focused on leadership and energy policy.



Prior to her Fellowship, Kim served in the Minnesota House of Representatives, representing District 25B. During her 10 years as a legislator, Kim introduced many pieces of significant legislation, including the Destination Medical Center (DMC) economic development project aimed at positioning Rochester as a premier location for healthcare. Before this, Kim served eight years, including one as board chair, of the Rochester Public School Board.

Kim has a record of asking tough questions, seeking out and listening to people with differing opinions, and working with the community to build bridges toward finding smart, fair solutions. She continues to serve on many local and state nonprofit boards and is a member of the Greater Rochester Rotary Club.

Kim is married to Randy Stone, the mother of four grown children and a stepson. She is grandmother to Zoe and Henry. She spends her personal time traveling and reading and has a special fondness for kayaking.

PATRICIA TORRES RAY

Minnesota State Senator

1st Latina elected to the Minnesota Senate

After working in public policy for 16 years, Patricia became the first Latina elected to the Minnesota Senate in 2006. In 2010, she was the first woman of color to run as Lieutenant Governor in the State.



Patricia has held multiple leadership roles in the Senate, including Majority Whip, Chair of the Parks and Trails Legacy Committee, Chair of the New Immigration Policy Commission, Chair of the Education Policy Committee and Chair of State and Local Government Committee. She is a recognized local and national leader, and was recently elected to

chair the National Caucus of Latina Elected Officials within the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL).

Patricia has received multiple awards recognizing her contributions to eliminating disparities and opening opportunities for women and minorities. She has authored numerous pieces of legislation adding significant changes to law in areas related to human services, public education, environment, housing and economic development.

She is a Public Affairs graduate from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, a former adjunct faculty, and ongoing consultant for the school. She has been a resident of Minneapolis for 30 years and has two boys, ages 22 and 20.

SAMANTHA VANG

Minnesota State Representative

1st Hmong American woman elected to the Minnesota House, along with Rep. Her



Samantha is the daughter of refugees, and was born in North Minneapolis. As a first-term legislator and member of the largest class of Hmong legislators elected in Minnesota history, she represents Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center, and is proud to fight for equity in education, voter accessibility at the polls, strong economic development, and better opportunities for all Minnesotans.

Before her election, Samantha graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College, advocated for attainable homeownership for Minnesotans, and was a community organizer working to build a political voice in underrepresented communities.

Samantha serves as Vice Chair of the Property and Local Tax Committee. She also serves on the Agriculture, Capital Investment, and Higher Education Committees, and is Chair of Minnesota's Asian Pacific Caucus.